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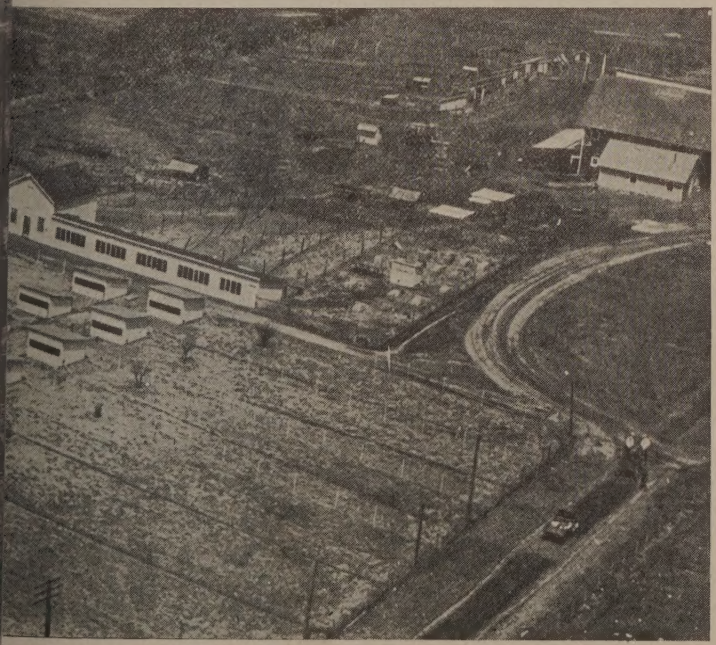
THE CULLING AND FEEDING OF POULTRY



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THE CULLING AND FEEDING OF POULTRY

By Dr. B. F. Kaupp, *Poultry Investigator and Pathologist*

CULLING CHICKS

ere diarrhea stunts the growth of the chick, and such chicks should diately be toe punched and later used or sold for food.

t next culling should be done when the young birds are eight to n weeks old, saving only those that are making a thrifty growth, ring out over the back, and are of proper body proportions. Use e for food all showing any deformity, or those with "crow heads"; s, showing weakness by not making proper growth of the head and as well as body.

e final culling comes at the time when the pullets go into the adult or laying pen. Those not showing full development of body, head, eck should be used for food. A lack of development of head, neck, and wattles shows constitutional weakness. The keel should be ht, and as the pullet gets its adult feathers and comes into laying, omb, face and wattles become bright red in color, with a gradual gement of the comb and wattles.

SELECTING BREEDING MALES

e males should have good depth of body and be broad across the t and the back at the base of the wings. The keel bone should be ght and the lay bones not too close together. These points, which herited, mean good capacity and in pullets mean high egg produc- The narrow chest, shallow body, the keel that dips up towards back bone, and the lay bones that lie close together are low egg ucing qualities.

CULLING THE HENS

ll the hens in July or August. At this time the good layers will a lean face; large, plump, bright comb; bright, bulging eye; white ring, ear lobe, beak, and shanks. The vent of the laying hen will be e, large, and flabby. Capacity or distance from the posterior end he keel to the lay bones should be three or more fingers in width Fig. 1). Pubic span or distance between the lay bones should be or more fingers in width (see Fig. 2). The poor layer has a fat ; small, shrunk, dull comb; dull, flat eye; yellow eye ring, ear lobe, , and shanks; yellow, small, dry vent; narrow in capacity and pubic . The skin of a heavy producing hen is thin, soft, and pliable, cially the skin of the abdomen. The skin of a poor producer is

generally thick, hard, and rather coarse. The shanks of a heavy l are flat, pliable, and smooth scaled. In hens at the end of their la year, or pullets which have laid heavily for some time, the shanks be bleached out. The poor producer generally shows a shallow b especially at the front of the keel and a small shrunken abdomen.

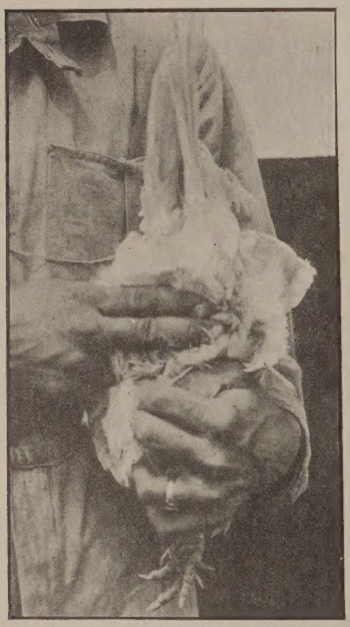

Fig. 1—Taking the capacity of a poor producer. Only two fingers wide between the posterior end of the breast bone or keel and the lay bones.

Fig. 2—Taking the pubic span of a producer, or distance between the la pubic bones.

FEEDING POULTRY

HOUSING LAYING HENS

Circular No. 6 of this station gives the plans for the constructi the farmer's portable poultry house to accommodate 50 hens, a su range house for the growing youngsters, and the combination s and brooding coop for the sitting hen and her brood.

To properly feed laying hens a modern poultry house should be vided. This should be warm and properly ventilated, with mash ho

pan, and scratch material such as straw, leaves, or stover on the
In this litter the grain is thrown so that the hens get needed
se. The lack of proper exercise hinders egg production.

TRIENTS REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EGG

e egg is one of two perfect foods nature elaborates for the purpose
eding the young. It is a perfect food for children, sick, convales-
and normal people. More eggs should be used as they are a perfect
being high in vitamines, and especially high in minerals, fats,
proteins. Hens, therefore, must have feeds that will furnish the
nts from which to construct the above egg nutrients. In the long
of spring and early summer, the hen, by ranging, finds these feeds,
ve can get winter eggs by the use of artificial light to make the late
nd winter days 13 or 14 hours long. This can be done by using
ric lights or a 300-candlepower lamp with reflector, and by feeding
, green feeds, such as rape, rye, oats, lettuce, cabbage, mangles, or
ted oats, a mash containing mill feeds, and the proper kind of
al feed in the form of meat scrap, meat meal, fish meal, blood meal,
l milk, digester tankage, buttermilk or sour skim milk. Thus
g-time egg production can be had in winter.

aying hens should have at least one-half ounce of green feed per
per day. If the animal food is to be buttermilk or skim milk, two
ns should be given each 100 hens each day. If dried milk is given,
mash should contain 20 pounds in each 100 pounds.

Grain Feed Formula

Corn	100 pounds
Wheat	100 pounds
Oats	100 pounds

wheat costs more than 10 per cent above oats or corn, eliminate it
use equal parts by weight of corn and oats. Fowls need a variety
eeds, and Kafir corn, milo maize, or buckwheat may be used if it
be secured at about 10 per cent less in price than corn or oats. The
ture may contain some of these grains, using not more than 20 per
by weight of any one of them. If barley or rye can be obtained
he same price as corn or oats, they may be used in equal parts with
e grains. Rye in more than 25 per cent may cause looseness of the
els.

o each 12 hens give one pint of the grain mixture in the morning
in the evening, in the litter on the floor of the hen house. Keep
ty of pure, clean water before the hens at all times, as 65 per cent
he egg is water and a shortage of water, if only for an hour, will
rfere with egg development.

Mash Formula for Laying Hens

Corn meal	30 pounds
Wheat middlings	30 pounds
Ground oats	20 pounds
Fish meal or meat scrap	20 pounds

If ground oats cannot be had, use 40 pounds each of corn meal wheat middlings with the 20 pounds of meat or fish meal. Milk, gester tankage, or bried blood may be used in the same quantitie the place of the meat scrap or fish meal.

The bulk of the late fall and early winter eggs come from the pul Dry mash must be kept before the laying hens at all times so they eat what they wish, or full egg production will not result. There i danger of a hen eating too much of an egg-laying mash, but ther danger of her not getting enough. Short winter days cut down fee hours and hence egg production, and with the coming of long day long feeding hours comes heavier egg production.

FEEDING THE CHICK

The sitting and brooding hen should be fed a grain mixture sim to that of the laying hen. By experiments conducted at this statio find that 47 per cent of the yolk of the egg remains in the body o chick at hatching and that this lasts the chick for three to four after hatching, and in some chicks five days old the yolk still rem in their abdominal yolk sac.

The chicks should not be fed till they are 72 hours old. If hatche an incubator they can be taken from the nursery tray on the third after the first chick pips out of the shell. If the incubator ha nursery tray, the chicks must be taken from the egg tray as fast as are dry and placed in the brooder, which is kept at a temperatu 100° F. If the chicks are hatched by the hen, dust her at the tim sitting with an efficient lice powder and again when taken from the The hen must be taken from the nest as soon as the last chick is d

The feed for the chick the first day should consist of buttermi sour milk, taking care not to use milk that is too sour. The second the chicks are given milk to drink and two very light feeds of food, consisting of cooked infertile eggs left over after candling, m with dried bread crumbs or rolled oats.

On the third day the chicks are placed on full feed. This will the older chicks six days old. It has been observed that this me which has been used at three experimental poultry farms for years, has given most excellent results, because it gradually bring digestive organs of the newly hatched chick into full activity and the body a chance to use the stored up yolk food nature has pro

as a result the chicks are stronger. Fine grit, such as sifted sand, finely crushed oyster shell or bone meal, must be given.

For many years one of the four mashes given below has been used when chicks are placed on range:

Mash Formulas for Chicks

1.	Corn meal	28 pounds
	Wheat middlings	28 pounds
	Ground oats	28 pounds
	Meat meal	16 pounds
2.	Soybean meal (fat extracted)	34 pounds
	Corn meal	66 pounds
3.	Peanut meal (fat extracted)	34 pounds
	Corn meal	66 pounds
4.	Corn meal	30 pounds
	Wheat middlings	25 pounds
	Ground oats	25 pounds
	Meat meal	15 pounds
	Bone meal	5 pounds

Feed mixture No. 1 should be mixed with water. Give just what the chicks will eat in 20 minutes. Give three to five times a day. By feeding often the chicks will develop more quickly to frying size. Mash given dry is not eaten so readily and the chicks develop slower. If given dry it must be kept before them at all times.

Feed mixtures 2 and 3 must be mixed with milk and milk given to drink. In case this cannot be done, 15 per cent meat meal or fish meal must be added to the mixture, as chicks will not make proper growth unless they get this animal food in the form of either meat meal, fish meal, milk, digester tankage, or blood meal, or can range and get insects and worms, also extra lime in the form of oyster shell or bone meal.

Mash mixture 4 is the most perfect food for the chick. In case the chicks cannot run on grass, tender green feed, finely chopped, must be furnished them.

On the tenth day begin the grain feed, giving two feeds a day. If the chicks are reared by a brooder, the grain must be given in finely chopped straw so as to furnish exercise, as this is essential for the health and proper growth of the chick. The grain mixture may be as follows:

Grain Mixture for Chicks

Cracked corn	3 pounds
Wheat	2 pounds
Hulled oats	1 pound

Give just what the chicks will clean up nicely in an hour.